

REMARKS

This Amendment is being concurrently submitted with a request for continued examination in response to the Final Office Action dated June 10, 2003. Applicants are also submitting herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement for consideration and review during the examination of the above-referenced patent application.

In the Office Action, claims 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; and claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 7 and 11 have been amended; and claims 8-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants believe that the rejections have been overcome or are improper in view of the amendments and for the reasons set forth below.

At the outset, claims 7 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Patent Office alleges that the claim term "and a SEQ ID NO: 1" is confusing. However, the Patent Office has suggested to amend same to include the term "and comprises SEQ ID NO: 1."

In response, claims 7 and 11 have been amended accordingly. Therefore, Applicants believe that claims 7 and 11 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In response, the sole independent claims at issue, namely, claims 7 and 11, have been amended to include that the bromelain protease includes a basic bromelain protease from *Ananas comosus* wherein the bromelain protease stimulates plasmin production, inhibits fibrin production and inhibits adhesion of thrombocytes on endothelium cells. Based on the Patent Office's comments regarding same, Applicants believe that independent claims 7 and 11 fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Further, claims 8-10 have been canceled as previously discussed and thus this rejection has been rendered moot with respect to same. The remaining pending claim 12 depends from claim 11 and thus as a matter of law incorporates each of the features of independent claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that the rejections with respect to claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph should be withdrawn.

As previously discussed, independent claims 7 and 11 have been amended to include that the bromelain protease includes a basic bromelain protease from *Ananas comosus* wherein the bromelain protease stimulates plasmin production, inhibits fibrin production, and inhibits

adhesion of thrombocytes on endothelium cells. As amended, Applicants believe that the claimed invention is distinguishable over the cited art. Indeed, the Patent Office admits that Harrach et al. is deficient with respect to the claimed bromelain protease that has the property of stimulating plasmin production, inhibiting fibrin production, and inhibiting the adhesion of thrombocytes on endothelium cells. Therefore, Applicants believe that the cited art does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 10, 2003